

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are presently pending.

The Examiner's indication that claims 21 and 25 are allowable is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1-20, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office action, p. 3, alleges that "the phrase 'on at least three sides' is found to be new matter because the specification fails to provide support for said phrase and the drawings fail to show said three sides of the tab as the tab appears to have a curved shape like a D-shape." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Paragraphs [0080] and [0081] of the application as published provide a description of an example of "an integrated tab comprising a portion of the base layer and being surrounded on at least three sides by the integrated removable portion":

A periphery edge of the integrated tab is generally defined by a plurality of die cuts 223 extending substantially through the base layer 224 so that the liner layer 214 at least partially maintains the integrated tab 225 in the integrated removable portion 222b against unintentional removal from the portion 222b....The integrated tab 225 may be at least partially hinged to the base layer 224, such as by an uncut portion or partially uncut portion 223' extending therebetween, as illustrated in FIG. 21. Alternatively, the integrated tab 225 may be completely removable from the removable integrated portion 222b. A cut-out 279 may extend through the base and liner layers 224 and 214 of the integrated removable portion 222b and may be positioned adjacent the periphery edge of the tab 225 to allow the tab 225 to be readily removed from the integrated removable portion 222b.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 13-15, 22-24, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,322,655 to Casagrande. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 13-15, 22-24, 26 and 27 are not anticipated by Casagrande.

Casagrande does not disclose the business forms of claims 1 and 22, including an integrated tab comprising a portion of the base layer and being surrounded on at least three sides by the integrated removable portion. Casagrande also does not disclose the methods of claims 14 and 24, including an integrated tab surrounded on at least three sides by the integral removable portion.

The Office action, pp. 4-5, asserts that perimeter portion 150 of Casagrande comprises the claimed tab, and that Figure 8 of Casagrande shows that the perimeter portion 150 is surrounded on at least three sides. However, Figure 8 shows perimeter portions 150 bounded on one side by the enclosed shape 47. Furthermore, Casagrande, col. 12, ll. 41-43, states that "perimeter portions 150 extending horizontally as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9 between the additional cut 146 and the enclosed shape 47." Given that the perimeter portions 150 of Casagrande are adjacent to the exterior of the enclosed shape 47, it follows that the perimeter portions 150 are not surrounded on at least three sides by the enclosed shape 47.

Casagrande also does not disclose an integrated tab surrounded by the integrated removable portion, as recited in claim 23. Casagrande also does not disclose an integrated tab that is completely surrounded by the integrated removable portion, as recited in claims 26 and 27. As illustrated in Figure 8 of Casagrande, the perimeter portions 150 are adjacent an exterior edge of the enclosed shape 47, and thus cannot be surrounded or completely surrounded by the enclosed shape.

Claims 4, 7-10 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casagrande in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,736,212 to Fischer. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casagrande. In view of the above comments regarding Casagrande and claims 1 and 14, from which claims 4, 7-10 and 17-20 depend, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 7-10 and 17-20 are not unpatentable over the applied reference or references.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20, 22-24, 26 and 27 are allowable, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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Amdt. dated July 10, 2007
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-135.

Respectfully submitted,

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